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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Amends Central Ohio's Transportation Plan to Include 3C Passenger Rail Service

(Columbus-October 2, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) announces its intention to amend the region's CapitalWays Transportation Plan to include 3C passenger rail service. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Rail Development Authority has been working through the study process to start rail service between Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland. On October 2 they submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for the project. It is anticipated that if ARRA funding is obtained that service could start by 2012. See 3cisme.ohio.gov for additional detail on the project.

In conjunction with this amendment, the air quality conformity determination documentation for the CapitalWays Transportation Plan is being updated. As a result of the Columbus ozone area recently being re-designated in attainment for the federal 8-hour ozone standard, new on road mobile sources budgets were established. It is required that transportation air quality conformity be redone with respect to these budgets. The on road mobile emission impacts of the 3C rail service will be incorporated into this analysis. The draft air quality conformity analysis will be available by October 9.

"We are pleased that the process to implement passenger rail service in the 3C corridor is moving forward. We are hopeful of the prospects of receiving ARRA funding to help implement this critical transportation project," states MORPC Director of Transportation Robert Lawler.

Public comment on the CapitalWays Transportation Plan amendment and the air quality conformity analysis are being accepted through close of business on November 2, 2009. Comments can be emailed to tplan@morpc.org or faxed to 614-621-2401. MORPC anticipates presenting the amendment to its Citizen Advisory Committee on November 2, the Transportation Advisory Committee on November 4, and to the Policy Committee for adoption on November 12.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.